



NEWS RELEASE

For Immediate Release:
Thursday, September 28, 2000

WEST NILE VIRUS DETECTED IN ADDITIONAL BIRD

A dead bird found in the Town of Penfield has tested positive for West Nile Virus (WNV). The bird, a rock dove, was found on Penfield Road.

County health officials continue to underscore the importance of preventive measures, most notably the use of insect repellents and the draining of standing water on residential property.

As warranted by weather conditions, particularly if a killing frost occurs, the Monroe County Health Department will undertake a number of actions, including:

- Initiate a mosquito larvicide program within an approximate 2-mile radius of where the bird was found
- Work with town officials to survey the area within the 2-mile radius to eliminate standing water
- Increase mosquito collection and testing in affected area

Health officials urge the public, particularly people over the age of 50, to exercise caution, but stress that less than 1% of people infected with WNV will have symptoms serious enough to require hospitalization. The vast majority of people fully recover from the illness. WNV is rarely fatal except for people who are otherwise at very high-risk due to other health problems.

West Nile Virus is a viral infection that is transmitted by mosquitoes. Most people will experience no symptoms, or will have mild flu-like symptoms such as a slight fever, headache or body aches. In the most serious cases, infection can result in encephalitis, which is an inflammation of the brain. It usually takes between 5-15 days for symptoms to develop. There is no specific treatment or vaccine for WNV.

The Monroe County Health Department has received the required permits from the NYS Department of Environmental Conservation to apply larvicide to bodies of water not easily drained.

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The Health Department published a notice in the Democrat and Chronicle several weeks ago, stating its intention to apply larvicides in conformance with the permits. Those permits require an additional 48-hour notice of intent to apply the larvicide in specific areas. That notice, for the following area (an approximate 2-mile radius surrounding the sites where the birds were found), is given today by the publication of this and other news releases:

Possible Larvicide Area: the area bounded by Atlantic Avenue on the north, Fairport Road on the south, East Avenue on the west and Jackson Road on the east.

Monroe County health officials will base their decision to larvicide on weather conditions over the next several days.

A 24-hour information line has been established and will be updated regularly. The number is **234-9600**. Extensive information on WNV is available at the Monroe County Web site: www.co.monroe.ny.us/health.

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For More Information:
Communications and Special Events, 428-2380,
Or see us on the web at www.co.monroe.ny.us